Initiatives for Mine Workers

720. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh initiatives have been taken by Government to improve the conditions of mine workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) All the statutory provisions as per the Mines Act, 1952 and Mines Rules, 1955 regarding welfare of workers are complied with in the mines of Public Sector Undertakings, namely National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO) and Hindustan Copper Ltd. (HCL) under the administrative control of Ministry of Mines. Due attention is being paid to the welfare of the workers and all efforts are being made to further improve the living conditions. The PSUs are providing Housing, Water Supply, Health, Education for the employees and their wards alongwith Cooperative Stores and Credit Societies and transport facilities at a subsidised rate.

The initiatives and welfare of workers is the subject matter of Ministry of Labour & Employment as per the Government of India (Allocation of Business Rules, 1961). It has been reported by the Ministry of Labour & Employment that some welfare schemes have been evolved by them to extend welfare facilities to certain non-coal mine workers and their family members in the spheres of Health, Education, Housing, recreation and Water Supply under the Iron Ore Mines, Manganese Ore Mines and Chrome Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund, Limestone & Dolomite Mines Labour Welfare Fund; and Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund.

Affairs of NALCO

721. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Aluminium Company (NALCO) has been operating without a Board of Directors over the past few months;

(b) whether it is a fact that the country's largest aluminium company has been functioning with only one functional Director under an acting Chairman over the past few months; and